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Letter dated 4 February 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement issued on 28 January 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union concerning the execution of six men in Uzbekistan following a bomb attack carried out in February 1999 in Tashkent (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a General Assembly document, under agenda item 116 (a).

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the execution of six men in Uzbekistan as a result of the bomb attack in February 1999 in Tashkent, issued on 28 January 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union opposes the death penalty in all cases and calls for its universal abolition. As a first step, the European Union calls for moratoriums on executions.

Where the death penalty still exists, the European Union insists that it be used only according to internationally accepted norms and standards.

The European Union strongly deplores the execution of the six individuals sentenced to death following the bomb attack in February 1999 in Tashkent.

The European Union considers that the abolition of the death penalty contributes to the enhancement of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights. It also constitutes a fundamental step towards democracy and protection of human rights in all countries that implement it.

The European Union calls upon the Government of Uzbekistan to refrain from the use of the death penalty and to take the necessary steps towards its abolition or, at least, the introduction of a moratorium.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway members of the European Economic Area align themselves with the present statement.